Applicant: C. Cantor et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 17120-011002 / 2408B
Serial No.: 10/645,816

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Election & Preliminary Amendment

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 and 12-14 are presently pending. Claims 4-11 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12-14 are added herein. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for identifying nucleotides at one or more base positions in a plurality of target nucleic acids molecules, comprising:

synthesizing extension products of the target nucleic acid in the presence of chain terminating nucleotides and mass-matched nucleotides;

determining the mass of each extension product; and calculating a mass shift from a period for the mass of each extension product, whereby the nucleotides in the target nucleic acid molecules are identified by determining the nucleotide that corresponds to each mass shift.

- 2. (Currently) The method of claim 1, wherein the mass-matched <u>nucleotides are</u> mass-matched deoxynucleotides <u>that</u> are identical.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a mass-matched deoxynucleotide is deoxyinosine, 5-nitroindole, 3-nitropyrrole, 3-methyl 7-propynyl isocarbostyril, 5-methyl isocarbostyril or 3-methyl isocarbostyril.
 - 4-11 (Cancelled)
- 12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the chain terminating nucleotides are mass-matched.
- 13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of target nucleic acids is multiplexed in a single reaction measurement.
- 14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a mass-matched deoxynucleotide is 7-deaza-dG, phosphorothioate-7-deaza-dA, 5-propynyl-dU and 5-cyanomethyl-2'-deoxycytidine.